



January 2001



Fact Sheet:

Alcohol and Drug Treatment for Youth

Youth Treatment Funding

The first alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment funding in California specifically designated for youth was authorized in 1998. This funding was provided to establish youth AOD treatment, develop youth treatment standards, and begin evaluation. Of the total \$4.999 million annual appropriation, \$4.75 is allocated to 20 counties selected based on need, \$100,000 is used to develop youth treatment standards, and \$149,000 is for evaluation.

In 2000, the California Legislature appropriated an additional \$8.366 in new funds for youth treatment statewide.

Youth Treatment Services

Counties are using youth treatment funds to provide services in accordance with best practices. The focus of the services varies depending on local need and priorities. Generally, the levels of care and types of settings available include outreach, early intervention, low and high intensive outpatient services, residential treatment (in group home settings and juvenile detention facilities), and continuing care.

Youth Treatment Standards

In 1999 (ADP) established a youth treatment standards development workgroup made up of representatives from various disciplines and county systems, with a wide range of expertise in areas specific to youth. The workgroup completed a set of best practices to ensure that youth intervention and treatment services are safe, appropriate, and

cost effective. These best practices have become the *Youth Treatment Guidelines*, with which all publicly funded programs serving youth are expected to comply. The guidelines focus on ways to specialize treatment for youth to provide guidance to counties and providers as they develop and operate their youth treatment services. The workgroup will continue to meet to further articulate and refine the guidelines into standards and, ultimately, regulations.

Youth Treatment Evaluation

ADP has contracted with the Public Health Institute to conduct an evaluation of the wide variety of youth treatment programs throughout the State. The evaluation should be completed by the end of 2003.

Youth Development and Crime Prevention Initiative

The 2000-01 Budget Act provided for \$6.1 million for the Youth Development and Crime Prevention Initiative. The funds for the Initiative are from three sources: \$3 million of Workforce Investment Act funds; \$1.1 million of Mental Health Block Grant funds; and \$975,000 of Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant funds. These funds will be used to demonstrate a model system of coordinated and comprehensive services for youth who are engaged in, or at high risk of, committing juvenile crime. The model will be based on youth development principles of supports, opportunities, and an array of developmentally appropriate services for youth.